

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5462

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH CHARGE IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. WE HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY THAT AMBASSADOR NECDET OZMEN HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TEMPORARILY AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO FILL TURKEY' VACANT AMBASSADORIAL POST IN SAUDI ARABIA DURING THE HAJ PERIOD, WHEN A LARGE NUMBER OF TURKISH PILGRIMS (POSSIBLY INCLUDING DEP PRIMIN ERBAKAN) WILL BE MAKING THE TRIP TO MECCA. OZMEN IS A FORMER ABASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA (1966-69).

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA SUMMARY: BORN IN ISTANBUL IN 1913. IS A GRADUATE OF GALATASARAY LYCEE AND THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY. HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1940 AND HAS SINCE SERVED AT RHODES, CHUNGKING, NANKING, THE CONSULAR AND LEGAL CLAIMS OFFICE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SECTION CHIEF OF THE NATO OFFICE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, VIENNA, BERN, ATHENS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT. FOLLOWING SERVICE IN SAUDI ARABI (ABOVE), HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO CHILE (1970-1973). SINCE 1973 HE HAS BEEN A HIGH COUNSELOR AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. OZMEN IS AN AGREEABLE PERSON BUT HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE STATED THAT HE HAS COME VERY CLOSE TO BEING DISMISSED FROM THE MINISTRY BECAUSE HE IS A PROCRASTINATOR AND DOES NOT HAVE A CLEAR HEAD UNDER PRESSURE. HIS WIFE, AN EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE AND POISED PERSON, IS THE SISTER-IN-LAW OF FORMER FOREIGN AND

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DEFENSE MINISTER HAZAN ISIK. BOTH OF THE OZMENS HAVE BEEN

EXTREMELY FRIENDLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY. BOTH SPEAK
ENGLISH REASONABLY WELL.
MACOMBER

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